QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S ISLAND.

RETURN to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons, dated 16 June 1853;—*for*,

"COPIES or EXTRACTS of CORRESPONDENCE relative to the DISCOVERY of GOLD at *Queen Charlotte's Island*."

Colonial Office, Downing-street, July 1853.

FREDERICK PEEL.

(*Mr. Peel.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed*, 19 *July* 1853.

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CORRESPONDECE relative to the DISCOVERY of GOLD in *Queen Charlotte's Island.*

— No. 1. —

No. 1.
Gov. Blanchard to Earl Grey.
18 August 1850.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor *Blanchard* to Earl *Grey*; dated Victoria, Vancouver's Island, 18 August 1850.

(Received 25 November 1850.)

"I HAVE seen a very rich specimen of gold ore, said to have been brought by the Indians of Queen Charlotte's Island, but I have at present no further account of it."

— No. 2. —

No. 2.
Gov. Blanchard to Earl Grey.
29 March 1851.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor *Blanchard* to Earl *Grey*; dated Victoria, Vancouver's Island, 29 March 1851.

(Received 8 July 1851.)

"I HAVE heard that fresh specimens of gold have been obtained from the Queen Charlotte islanders; I have not seen them myself, but they are reported to be very rich. The Hudson's Bay Company's servants intend to send an expedition in the course of the summer to make proper investigations."

— No. 3. —

No. 3.
Governor Douglas to Earl Grey.
31 October 1851.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor *Douglas* to Earl *Grey*; dated Victoria, Vancouver's Island, 31 October 1851.

(Received, 19 January 1852.)

"I HAVE further to inform your Lordship that the natives have discovered gold in Englefield Bay, on the west coast of Queen Charlotte's Island. One of the Hudson's Bay Company's vessels visited the spot in the month of July last, and succeeded in procuring about 60 ounces of gold, principally by barter from the Indians. One lump of nearly pure gold, weighing 1 lb. 11 oz., was seen in the possession of one native, who demanded a price beyond its value, so that it was not purchased. The gold is associated with white quartz rock, similar to that of the auriferous deposits in California; it is yet found in small quantities; but I am of opinion that it exists abundantly in that and other parts of the island.

The report of that discovery having become known in this country, I am informed that several American vessels are fitting out in the Columbia for Queen Charlotte's Island, for the purpose of digging gold—a circumstance to which I would request your Lordship's attention, as it may be the desire of Government to exclude foreign vessels from that part of the coast."

— No. 4. —

No. 4.
Earl Grey to Governor Douglas.
4 February 1852.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Earl *Grey* to Governor *Douglas*; dated Downing-street, 4 February 1852.

"WITH regard to the discovery of gold on the west coast of Queen Charlotte's Island, I do not consider that it would be expedient to issue any prohibition against the resort thither of foreign vessels."

— No. 5. —

No. 5.
Governor Douglas to Earl Grey. 16 Dec. 1851.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor *Douglas* to Earl *Grey*; dated Victoria, Vancouver's Island, 16 December 1851.

(Received, 2 March 1852.)

"SINCE I had last the honour of addressing your Lordship, two vessels from the American ports, in Paget Sound, bound to Queen Charlotte's Island, have touched at this port. They had collectively about 60 passengers on board, who were going thither for the purpose of digging gold: it is also currently reported, that several vessels, filled with passengers, have sailed from the Columbia and California for the same quarter. Their presence on the coast will, I fear, be productive of much evil, and lead to serious difficulties with the native tribes. It has also occurred to me that those adventurers may possibly attempt to plunder the British trading posts on the neighbouring coast; and I will further submit for your Lordship's consideration the probability of their becoming formidable from the mere force of numbers, and, should gold prove abundant, putting Government to much future trouble and expense in guarding national rights, unless measures are immediately taken to restrain the subjects of the United States and other foreign powers from entering or forming settlements on that island."

— No. 6. —

No. 6.
H. Merivale, Esq. to Captain Hamilton. 24 March 1852.

COPY of a LETTER from *H. Merivale*, Esq. to Captain *Hamilton*.

Sir, Downing-street, 24 March 1852.

I AM directed by Sir John Pakington to transmit to you for the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, an extract from a despatch from the Governor of Vancouver's Island, reporting the resort to Queen Charlotte's Island of adventurers from the United States and elsewhere, and I am to request that you will call their Lordships' attention to the reasons therein alleged for stationing a ship of war off the coast, to protect both national rights and private interests.

I am, &c.
(signed) *H. Merivale.*

— No. 7. —

No. 7.
Governor Douglas to Earl Grey. 29 January 1852.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor *Douglas* to Earl *Grey*; dated Victoria, Vancouver's Island, 29 January 1852.

(Received, 3 May 1852.)

"IN my communication of the 16th December, of which I herewith transmit a duplicate, I informed your Lordship that several vessels had sailed, and that others were reported to be fitting out, in the American Ports of Oregon and California, for the coast of Queen Charlotte's Island.

These vessels are chartered by large bodies of American adventurers, who are proceeding thither for the purpose of digging gold; and if they succeed in that object, it is said to be their intention to colonise the island, and establish an independent government, until, by force or fraud, they become annexed to the United States. They look forward and are prepared to encounter much opposition from Her Majesty's Government, but they speak very confidently as to their numbers, which can be recruited to almost any desirable extent, from the floating population in California; and the ultimate success of their enterprise is considered by them as a matter admitting scarcely of a doubt. This report is believed, and the chances of success are openly discussed in the best-informed circles in Oregon. * * * * *

One of the Hudson's Bay Company's vessels (the "Una"), which made a voyage to Mitchell's Harbour, on the west side of Queen Charlotte's Island, in November

November last, discovered a rich vein of gold, averaging 6½ inches in width, bedded in quartz rock, running 80 feet parallel with the coast, and from thence apparently taking a direction towards the interior of the island; but it could not be traced beyond the point where it diverges from the line of coast, on account of the surface earth, which conceals it from view. The vein was worked for several days, by blasting, and rich specimens were procured, some of which yielded 25 per cent. of pure gold, and there was every prospect of making a profitable voyage, when the natives, attracted to the spot in great numbers, by the presence of the vessel, became so exceedingly troublesome to the parties on shore, by pilfering their tools, and by rushing tumultuously upon the mine from time to time as the explosions took place, to seize the gold which had been so hardly earned, that they could no longer carry on their operations without being in danger of their lives. The officer in command, influenced by the entreaties of the Indian chiefs, who, with much apparent good feeling, begged him to keep his men on board, and not permit them to land, as they found it impossible, amidst so many temptations, to restrain their people from committing those violent acts, his men at the same time having refused to work on shore, unless they were allowed to fire upon the Indians if they again attempted to maltreat or plunder them, left the coast, a decision made from the best of motives, but which has unfortunately left the field open to the American adventurers, who arrived there shortly after his departure; and, as the "Una" was wrecked at Cape Flattery, on her return to this place, and the Hudson's Bay Company had no other disposable vessel at hand to send there, the Americans still remain in possession of the gold region.

I have since learned, that the first American ship which arrived in Mitchell's Harbour remained only a few days, as the adventurers on board were intimidated by the hostile appearance of the natives, and would not venture on shore. Another smaller vessel was wrecked on the east coast of the island, and I have ascertained, through a letter from the master, received by Indian conveyance, that the whole party he had on board, consisting of 30 persons, had reached the shore in safety, and were living in a most wretched condition among the Indians.

A vessel was lately despatched to their relief by the United States' authorities at Nesqually, with what success I have not yet heard. I have not been able to ascertain how many other American vessels have gone there, but I will inform your Lordship as soon as I receive information regarding that matter.

While on the subject of Queen Charlotte's Island, I will further take the liberty of remarking to your Lordship that, apart from political considerations, and as a mere question affecting the prosperity of this colony, it would be highly important to exclude the vessels of foreign powers from that field of enterprise, leaving it open to national vessels alone; as in that case a flourishing trade would soon flow into this colony, which would then necessarily become a general place of refuge for the shipping employed on Queen Charlotte's Island, and find a market for all its farm and agricultural produce, in supplying the miners with food; on the other hand, if American vessels be admitted, they will draw their supplies, and carry the produce of the mines into their own ports in Oregon and California, to the manifest injury of Her Majesty's possessions in those quarters.

I have addressed a communication to Rear-Admiral Moresby,* informing him of the important discoveries made in Queen Charlotte's Island, and requesting him to take such measures as he may deem proper and advisable in the circumstances for the protection of British interests and national rights."

* Page 6.

— No. 8. —

No. 8.
Sir J. H. Pelly to Sir J. S. Pakington, Bart., M.P. 26 March 1852.

COPY of a LETTER from Sir *J. H. Pelly* to the Right Honourable Sir *John S. Pakington*, Bart., M.P.

Sir, Hudson's Bay House, 26 March 1852.

THE Hudson's Bay Company, in the course of their trade with the natives of Queen Charlotte's Island, on the North West Coast of America—a trade to which they have an exclusive right, under a grant from the Crown, dated the 13th May 1838—having discovered that the natives were in possession of

specimens of gold ore, which they said were found on the island, lately sent a small expedition thither, under the command of Mr. M'Neill, a chief trader in the Company's service, to make the necessary investigations respecting this discovery, and to establish a trading post.

I have the honour to enclose herewith, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, Mr. M'Neill's report of his proceedings, and shall feel obliged if you will grant me an interview, with the view of considering what steps should be taken for obtaining the gold, and particularly for preventing citizens of the United States from trespassing on Her Majesty's possessions, and infringing the rights of the Hudson's Bay Company.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. H. Pelly.*

Encl. in No. 8.

Enclosure in No. 8.

Sir, Fort Simpson, 20 November 1851.

After leaving Victoria, I proceeded with the "Una" to fulfil your instructions of 4th October 1851. We had a fine run to Queen Charlotte's Island of four days, after which, a gale of wind came on, which detained us off the place Cape Henry eight days, consequently we did not anchor in Mitchell's Harbour until the 20th October.

On the second day after our arrival, we commenced blasting the rock at the old place. We commenced in a vein of quartz, and were very successful; the rock proved to be rich with gold, as you will see by the specimens now forwarded per Doctor Kennedy. We followed the vein, and found it deeply impregnated with gold. The vein seems to take the direction up the mountain. In fact, our men went half way to the top, say 300 feet above the water, and found quartz rock, a specimen of which I now send you. In my opinion gold will be found in many places hereafter on the west side of the island, as quartz rock is to be found in every direction. We found it in four different places in Mitchell's Harbour, but had no time to examine it. I am sorry to inform you that we were obliged to leave off blasting, and quit the place for Fort Simpson, on account of the annoyance we experienced from the natives. They arrived in large numbers, say 30 canoes, and were much pleased to see us on our first arrival. When they saw us blasting and turning out the gold in such large quantities, they became excited, and commenced depredations on us, stealing the tools, and taking, at least, one-half of the gold that was thrown out by a blast; they would be concealed until the report was heard, and then make a rush for the gold; a regular scramble between them and our men would take place; they would take our men by the legs, and hold them away from the gold: some blows were struck on those occasions; the Indians drew their knives on our men often. The men who were at work at the vein became completely tired, and disgusted at their proceedings, and came to me on three different occasions, and told me that they would not remain any longer to work the gold; that their time was lost to them, as the natives took one-half of the gold thrown out by the blast, and blood would be shed if they continued to work at the diggings; that our force was not strong or large enough to work and fight also. They were aware they could not work on shore after hostility had commenced; therefore I made up my mind to leave the place, and proceed to this place.

The natives were very jealous of us when they saw that we could obtain gold by blasting; they had no idea that so much could be found below the surface; they said that it was not good that we should take all the gold away; if we did so, that they would not have anything to trade with other vessels, should any arrive: in fact, they told us to be off. The chiefs have no power over the lower order, and, of course, cannot prevent them from plundering or committing any act of violence on strangers. I will refer you to M'Gregor for information regarding the vein, &c., at the diggings, as he seems to have a good idea of the rock, and how the work should be carried on; he has behaved well, and was very zealous at his work.

The men said they should go again in the spring, if an expedition, properly fitted, should start for working the gold on Queen Charlotte's Island.

In my opinion, should another expedition go to Queen Charlotte's Island, a force of, at least, 80 men would be required, with two officers to attend the land party; the ship also should have three officers, besides the captain, which I can prove by experience during our late visit to the gold district. The ship's crew, as well as the land party, should go on shares of the gold that may be collected, as it would prevent any one from trading gold. We had considerable trouble, during our stay at the island, to prevent the people from trading the ore. The natives brought a quantity of gold to me, which I traded, and now forward it, together with that which we obtained by blasting ourselves.

Very little, if any, gold will be obtained on Queen Charlotte's Island, except by blasting. It appears to me that some of the gold I traded was obtained on some other place than that which we were at.

They, however, said that they had discovered gold in no other place than in Mitchell's Harbour: this report I much doubt, as the lumps are solid, and different from any other that we found at the place we were at work on.

We

We have discovered and proved by this voyage, that gold is to be found in quantities at Mitchell's Harbour alone to pay an expedition to go there, and work it. I had no opportunity of examining the country much, as we remained but 15 days, during which time I was occupied with the Indians, as no one on board, except myself, could speak to them; we had some bad, boisterous weather during the time also. I saw no place where we could build a fort anywhere near the diggings. The shores near the sea and harbours are bold, steep rocks, down to the water's edge.

Provisions will be found scarce at Mitchell's Harbour; no deer on the island, and fish appears to be very scarce, as they cannot catch them on the outside of the island, except during a calm, or a north-east wind. Potatoes can be had in large quantities, from the Skidigates tribe, who reside on the east side of the island, but can reach the diggings in two days' travel in the summer season.

Should a fort be built, or a ship remain, at the diggings for a length of time, a large number of Indians would collect, and reside near at hand, and give annoyance; therefore a large force of men would be required for protection, and to work the gold; a person acquainted with Indians should lead the expedition, and have an interpreter.

The natives on the west, or outside of the island, are great marauders, and prey on distant tribes, take many prisoners, and make slaves of them.

I hope you will be satisfied with the reasons I have given for leaving the diggings, and not remaining there so long as you wished.

The voyage has, however, done some good; we have ascertained that gold is to be found by blasting to pay well for working it.

The best or purest gold is to be found deep down in the rock; we, however, had no time or chance to get at it, as we were obliged to leave, as stated before.

I remain, &c.

James Douglas, Esq. (signed) *W. H. M'Neill.*

— No. 9. —

No. 9.
Sir J. H. Pelly to Sir J. S. Pakington, Bart., M.P. 3 April 1852.

COPY of a LETTER from Sir *J. H. Pelly* to the Right Honourable Sir *John S. Pakington*, Bart., M.P.

Sir, Hudson's Bay House, 3 April 1852.

ON the 26th ultimo I had the honour of addressing a letter to you, enclosing a copy of a report on the subject of the gold mine discovered in Queen Charlotte's Island, and requesting an interview, to which I have not yet had an answer.

Since then I have received a letter from Mr. Ballenden, the officer in charge at Fort Vancouver, on the Columbia River, of which I enclose an extract, from which you will perceive that the discovery had occasioned great excitement among the American population in that quarter, who were making preparations for a descent on the island.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. H. Pelly.*

Enclosure in No. 9.

Encl. in No. 9.

EXTRACT of a Letter from *John Ballenden*, Esq., to *Archibald Barclay*, Esq., dated Fort Vancouver, O. T., 3 February 1852.

"THE excitement at Nisqually, and to the north of the Columbia, respecting the gold found in Queen Charlotte's Island, is very great: to the south, along the Willamette River, it is a perfect fever. At Portland alone they are endeavouring to collect about 100 armed men to proceed to the island, set the Indians at defiance, and commence working the mines.

The news will reach San Francisco in a few days, and many idle persons will be found there ready to embark in such adventures."

— No. 10. —

29 January.

Sir J. H. PELLY presents his compliments to Sir John Pakington, and begs to hand him a packet, addressed to the late Secretary for the Colonies, which has been received to-day from the Governor of Vancouver's Island, and also the copy of a letter from the Governor to Rear-Admiral Moresby, relative to the proceedings and views of American adventurers in regard to Queen Charlotte's Island.

Hudson's Bay House,
3 May 1852.

Enclosure in No. 10.

Encl. in No. 10. COPY of a LETTER from *James Douglas*, Esq., Governor of Vancouver's Island, dated Fort Victoria, 29th January 1852, to Rear-Admiral *Moresby*, Commander-in-Chief of Her Britannic Majesty's Naval Forces in the Pacific.

Sir, Fort Victoria, 29 January 1852.

IN my communications to Earl Grey of the 16th December and 29th January, inst. on the affairs of Vancouver's Island, I made known to Her Majesty's Government the projects entertained by certain adventurers of Oregon and California, in reference to Queen Charlotte's Island; and I have since resolved to communicate with you directly on that subject, as the circumstances referred to demand rapid and vigorous measures, and are of such a nature as may authorise you to act without specific instructions.

I informed his Lordship that several vessels had sailed, and that many others were reported to be fitting out in the American ports of Oregon and California for the coast of Queen Charlotte's Island; that those vessels are chartered by large bodies of American adventurers, proceeding thither for the purpose of digging gold; that if they succeed in that object, it is their intention to settle permanently on the island, and establish an independent Government, with the view ultimately of becoming annexed to the United States.

They look forward and are prepared to encounter much opposition from Her Majesty's Government, having confidence in their numbers, which can be recruited to any desirable extent out of the floating population of California and Oregon.

I despatched one of the Hudson's Bay Company's trading vessels last October to retain possession of a rich vein of gold in Mitchell's Harbour, on the west coast of Queen Charlotte's Island, which had been discovered on a former visit; but the officer in command of the vessel unfortunately did not carry out his instructions, but left the place, after a very short stay, in consequence of difficulties with the Indians; the field, therefore, remains unoccupied, and open to American adventurers, who are reported to have gone thither in great numbers. I have not, however, been able to ascertain the exact number now there, but I can state with certainty that three vessels bound thither, containing about 100 adventurers, besides the ships' crews, and provided with mining implements, lately called at this port for information about the gold region. A large ship from California was also spoken some weeks ago off the Straits of Juan da Fuca, bound to the same quarter, with 250 adventurers on board, and a number of brass field-pieces, for the purpose of coercing the natives, if hostile; so that from all accounts I think there cannot be less than 500 Americans, well armed and equipped, on the island.

We are now fitting out a vessel for Mitchell's Harbour, which will carry about 40 hands, to watch and report proceedings; but you are aware that I have no force at my command, nor authority to protect national rights on Queen Charlotte's Island.

I imagine Her Majesty's Government will take possession of the mines for the Crown, and establish laws and regulations for the protection of life and property, allowing the mines to be worked on payment of certain royalties. That privilege, I presume, will be conceded to British subjects alone, or to persons professing to be such, and that the subjects and vessels of foreign powers will be entirely excluded from the mines. Delay will add to the difficulty of enforcing regulations such as I have supposed will be adopted by Her Majesty's Government, as the number of adventurers will be continually on the increase; and I am convinced, if left unmolested, they will attempt to wrest that valuable possession from the British Crown.

Whatever force may be sent to Queen Charlotte's Island, should be accompanied by a steam-ship, which I think will be found of incalculable service in guarding the numerous bays and inlets of the coast, where prohibited vessels may lie concealed.

I cannot discover from any authority within reach if foreign vessels touching at Queen Charlotte's Island without a permit will be subject to seizure and confiscation.

The Americans have shown the example by the seizure of the British merchant-ship "Albion," of 600 tons burthen, while her crew were employed cutting timber on the American side of the Straits of Juan da Fuca, which is inhabited by savages alone, and without any Government establishment, such act being considered a violation of the revenue and navigation laws of the United States; and the "Albion" was consequently confiscated, and sold.

This colony is, I am happy to inform you, in a tranquil state, and the Neweete murderers have paid the forfeit of their crimes with their lives, having been put to death by their own countrymen.

I have, &c.
(signed) *James Douglas*,
Governor of Vancouver's Island.

Rear-Admiral Moresby, Commander-in-Chief of Her Britannic Majesty's Naval Forces in the Pacific.

P.S.—I herewith transmit a sketch of Mitchell's Harbour, Queen Charlotte's Island, for your information.

(signed) *J. D.*

— No. 11. —

No. 11.
H. Merivale, Esq. to Captain Hamilton. 13 May 1852.

COPY of a LETTER from *H. Merivale*, Esq. to Captain *Hamilton*.

Sir, Downing-street, 13 May 1852.

IN requesting you to lay before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty the accompanying copies of despatches from the Governor of Vancouver's Island, and of a letter from that officer to Rear-Admiral Moresby, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to request you to recall their Lordships' attention to my letter of the 24th of March, on the subject of stationing a ship of war off Queen Charlotte's Island. It appears to Sir John Pakington, from the enclosed papers, that the discovery of gold in that island, and the reported resort thither of several ships conveying adventurers, whose presence is likely to occasion disorder, render it imperative on Her Majesty's Government to take immediate steps for the security of British interests, and the upholding of national rights. I am therefore to request you to move the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to instruct the Rear-Admiral on the station to despatch such a force to Queen Charlotte's Island as their Lordships may consider adequate for the service, and apprise the Rear-Admiral that it is of importance that this instruction should be obeyed as promptly as possible. Sir J. Pakington is of opinion that a steam-vessel should be included in the naval force to be sent to Queen Charlotte's Island, as that description of ship will afford facilities for more prompt and vigorous action, if such should be requisite, than a sailing vessel; and I am also to inform you, that it is Sir John's intention to provide the officer in command with a commission of the peace, so as to enable him to insist on obedience to the law on the part of British subjects.

I have, &c.

(signed) *H. Merivale.*

— No. 12. —

No. 12.
Capt. Hamilton to H. Merivale, Esq. 25 May 1852.

COPY of a LETTER from Captain *Hamilton* to *Herman Merivale*, Esq.

Sir, Admiralty, 25 May 1852.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Secretary Sir John Pakington, copies of a letter from the British Consular agent at San Francisco to Rear-Admiral Moresby, relative to the discovery of gold in Queen Charlotte's Island, and of the order given for Her Majesty's ship "Thetis" to proceed to assert the sovereignty of Her Majesty over that island, &c., and to visit the settlement of Fort Rupert, in Vancouver's Island

I am, &c.

(signed) *W. A. B. Hamilton.*

Enclosure in No. 12.

Encl. in No. 12.

British Consulate, San Francisco, 1 March 1852.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to communicate intelligence respecting the discovery of large quantities of gold, and of gold bearing quartz, at Queen Charlotte's Island. From a letter received from Mr. Staines, chaplain to the Hudson's Bay Company in Vancouver's Island, and the statements of two English sailors who have just returned, I have been enabled to gather the following information:

The "Una" schooner, belonging to the Hudson's Bay Company, was, I believe, one of, if not the first vessel to proceed there, and found good anchorage close to shore, in a small bay on the south coast of the island: a trade was carried on for some days with the Indians, when the schooner returned to Fort Victoria, Vancouver's Island, but had to leave after three days, in consequence of the Indians preventing the crew from removing the gold, which was found chiefly in quartz, close to shore. Three blasts were made, yielding about 300 *l.*, with which, and the gold received in exchange for blankets, &c., they again left, and were wrecked at Cape Flattery, on the Oregon coast. A schooner, the "Damariscone," has lately returned. In making the voyage from San Francisco to

Puget's Sound, they thought they might as well run up to ascertain the truth of the reports concerning the gold. When they arrived, the Indians were in force, and made so warlike a demonstration as to compel them, being few in number, to hasten their departure. Before they left they received a pencilled note from Mr. Rowland, a British subject, master of the sloop "Georgiana," who had proceeded thither only a few weeks before in his little vessel, about 40 tons, with a company of Americans, from Puget's Sound. The note informed them that the "Georgiana" was wrecked, and that all the party were in the hands of the Indians, who had stripped them of every thing. The "Damariscone" returned, and gave information to the United States collector of customs at Olympia, who forthwith chartered and fitted her up under the United States revenue flag, with a lieutenant and four privates of the U. S. Artillery, and ten volunteers, who found, on arrival, the whole party in captivity, and secured their liberation by donations of blankets and trinkets: three of the party rescued were British subjects. It is reported that lately several small vessels had sailed from Oregon for Queen Charlotte's Island, and three are endeavouring to procure passengers here for that destination. I have thought it right to address you with all the particulars, as far as I have been able to learn, in case you should deem it expedient to take any steps for the protection of the island.

I have, &c.

Rear-Admiral Moresby, Commander-in-Chief, &c. &c. &c.

(signed) *Geo. Aikin.*

— No. 13. —

No. 13.
Governor Douglas to Earl Grey.
15 April 1852.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor *Douglas* to Earl *Grey*; dated Victoria, Vancouver's Island, 15 April 1852.

(Received, 13 July 1852.)

"THERE has been for some time past much excitement among the labouring classes on the subject of the gold diggings of Queen Charlotte's Island, to the great injury of the colony, which has, in consequence, lost many useful men. One of the Hudson's Bay Company's vessels sailed for Gold Harbour about the end of last month, with a strong and well-appointed party.

"The Exact," and another American vessel, which called at Gold Harbour since my last report, returned unsuccessful from that voyage, having been beaten off by the natives, though the American force was considerable, and well armed. Several other American vessels are reported to be on the point of sailing from the ports of Oregon for the same part of the coast. I have no reliable information from California, though the rumours in circulation lead to the belief that Gold Harbour will be the great attraction of the season."

— No. 14. —

No. 14.
Governor Douglas to Earl Grey.
28 May 1852.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor *Douglas* to Earl *Grey*; dated Fort Victoria, Vancouver's Island, 28 May 1852.

(Received, 9 August 1852.)

"I ALSO observe that your Lordship, for very important reasons, does not consider it expedient to prohibit the resort of foreign vessels to Queen Charlotte's Island.

Since my last report of the 15th April, advices have been received that the Hudson's Bay Company's brig "Recovery" had arrived safely at Queen Charlotte's Island, and taken unmolested possession of the only surface gold vein in Gold Harbour, with the consent and approbation of the native Indians, who have lived on the most friendly terms with the party ever since their arrival.

No foreign vessel was known at that time to be on the coast; but in the space of ten days afterwards seven vessels had assembled in Gold Harbour from the American ports in Oregon and California, having each from 40 to 70 miners on board. Finding the vein pre-occupied by the Hudson's Bay Company's people, the Americans sent out parties in all directions to explore the neighbouring coast; but their researches for gold were not successful, and four of the vessels, after

after a few weeks' stay, abandoned the enterprise, not, however, without having landed a party of 15 men, who have thrown up a block house on Nutts' Island, and mounted two small pieces of ordnance, as a protection against the natives.

That party and one American vessel were, by last advices of the 26th instant, still in Gold Harbour. It was expected, from the small quantity of gold found, that the vessel would soon leave the coast; but the party on shore had, it appears, made up their minds to remain for a further time on the island, from a persuasion that gold would be found in considerable quantities by mining, and they were expecting a reinforcement of hands, with supplies, by a ship from California.

With our limited information respecting the auriferous deposits of the island, it is difficult to predict with certainty what may be the issue of their adventure; but it is very certain that success will have the effect of attracting a crowd of adventurers from the American settlements on this coast to Queen Charlotte's Island, and it will be no easy matter to eject them when firmly established.

I had, indeed, hopes, derived from the signal failure of the five first American vessels which visited the island, that the mines would be left to the better directed and firmer enterprise of Her Majesty's subjects, and that this colony would become a depôt and place of refuge to the British ships employed about the mines.

The Hudson's Bay Company's people were working the auriferous rock with great energy, but indifferent success, not having struck any decided vein of gold; a fortunate Indian had, however, picked up near the same spot a beautiful specimen of pure gold, weighing about three pounds troy, which he found among the mud on the beach, a little beyond low-water mark.

It was evidently a travelled lump; but whether thrown up by the waves, or carried down from the neighbouring mountains, could not be ascertained, though plausible arguments were adduced in favour of each of those opinions.

Detachments had been out to explore the interior of the island, who discovered a large fresh-water lake, and many extensive beds of quartz rock; but they saw very little surface gold.

* * * * * * *

Her Majesty's ship "Thetis," under the command of Captain Kupar, arrived at the neighbouring port of Esquimalt on the 24th of May, and sailed on the 5th instant for Queen Charlotte's Island and Fort Rupert, the northern settlement of Vancouver's Island.

I communicated to Captain Kupar the substance of the information respecting Queen Charlotte's Island, and the prospects of the American adventurers, which is stated in this and my previous letters to your Lordship, and also procured one of the Hudson's Bay Company's officers, who is well acquainted with the navigation of the coast, to accompany him on that voyage."

— No. 15. —

No. 15. Governor Douglas to the Right. Hon. J. S. Pakington, 2 August 1852.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor *Douglas* to the Right Honourable Sir *John S. Pakington*; dated Fort Victoria, Vancouver's Island, 2 August 1852.

(Received, 18 October 1852.)

"I OBSERVE with much satisfaction that you have directed the attention of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to the subject of stationing a vessel of war off Queen Charlotte's Island for the support of national rights, and the protection of Her Majesty's subjects trading to that quarter.

We have received no intelligence from Queen Charlotte's Island since the arrival of Her Majesty's ship "Thetis" in the early part of last month. The Americans had all left before the departure of the "Thetis" from Gold Harbour, and I have no doubt the report of her proceedings on the coast will deter many

persons from going there, who would otherwise have been induced by its reputed wealth to visit the island.

The danger is not, however, completely removed, as rumours are still abroad of parties forming in California and Oregon, for the avowed purpose of working the gold mines, and any prospect of success will set them all in motion.

The reports received from the Hudson's Bay Company parties employed on Queen Charlotte's Island are not so favourable as anticipated, and it has now become a question if surface gold, as found in California, exists in large quantities on any part of the island. On the other hand, all the accounts agree in representing the great value of the auriferous quartz, from which it is expected that a rich harvest of the precious metals will be obtained.

The presence of a vessel of war permanently stationed on this coast will, I am convinced, have the happiest effect in promoting general trade, as well as the special interests of this colony, and I am in hopes that Her Majesty's Government will take a favourable view of that measure."

— No. 16. —

No. 16.
Captain Hamilton to H. Merivale, Esq.
27 Sept. 1852.

COPY of a LETTER from Captain *Hamilton* to *H. Merivale*, Esq.

Sir, Admiralty, 27 September 1852.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Secretary Sir John Pakington, copies of a letter, dated the 23d July last, from Captain Kupar, of Her Majesty's ship "Thetis," and of its enclosures, containing intelligence respecting Vancouver and Queen Charlotte Islands.

I am, &c.
(signed) *W. A. B. Hamilton.*

Enclosure in No. 16.

Encl. in No. 16.

EXTRACT of a LETTER from Captain *Kupar* to Rear-Admiral *Moresby*, C. B.; dated Her Majesty's Ship "Thetis," San Francisco, 20 July 1852.

"It would appear that the information contained in the letter addressed to you by Her Majesty's Consul at San Francisco on the 1st March last* was substantially correct; but the amount of gold as yet procured from Queen Charlotte's Island has, I think, been overrated. The only place where gold has as yet been found is in Port Mitchell, and the Indians maintain that all they have procured came from the same spot, and that they have not found it in any other part of the island; their reports, however, cannot be depended upon.

* Page 7.

The Hudson's Bay Company's schooner "Recovery" arrived at Port Mitchell from Fort Victoria on the 5th April last, with a party of men who had agreed to work, on shares, the vein of quartz which had first been worked by those on board the "Una;" the Hudson's Bay Company finding all materials, powder, mining tools, &c., and receiving one-half of the proceeds towards paying the expenses, the other half being equally divided amongst those employed, who, although the regular servants of the company, were to receive no wages during the time. This expedition is under the command of Doctor Kennedy; but, from the information I received from him, as well as from some of the miners, it would appear that they had been much disappointed in their expectations. Several of the men had already deserted, and the rest all expressed themselves as anxious to get away, as the amount of gold procured would not, by the account of Doctor Kennedy, by any means pay the expense of powder and tools, and would only give a very trifling share to the men. The gold they had got has been procured by dint of very hard labour, the mere clearing the ground being a matter of difficulty, and the stone contiguous to the vein of quartz being exceedingly hard and difficult to blast. They told me that they had sometimes been days without finding gold. The vein is close to the water's edge, and the portion opened about 20 feet in length, and in the deepest part six or eight feet below the surface.

I have been unable to obtain any correct information as to what amount of gold has actually

actually been taken from the island; but the "Una," previous to her being wrecked in Neah Bay, in the Straits of Juan de Fuca, certainly got some, and I was informed by Mr. Mitchell, who then commanded the "Una," and is now in command of the "Recovery," that when he left the island in the "Una," there was a considerable amount of gold visible in the vein; but, not being in sufficient numbers on board, they were prevented from working it by the Indians, but that the place had been visited subsequently by a vessel with a party of adventurers from San Francisco, who are supposed to have met with some success. Of the existence of gold in considerable quantity upon the island there can be no doubt, from the specimens of pure metal which have been brought for barter by the Indians. The largest piece as yet seen weighs 22 ounces, and is in possession of one of the chiefs, who, however, places so exorbitant a price upon it (I believe 1,500 blankets) that nobody has been able to make a bargain with him. The mountains, as far we were able to explore, abound in veins of quartz; but the extremely rugged and impracticable nature of the country will present most serious obstacles to the success of any adventurers who may be disposed to visit the island in search of gold.

I enclose a list of the vessels which have visited Port Mitchell since April last, for the purpose of seeking for gold. I am told that they had each from 40 to 50 Californian adventurers on board; but they appear to have met with no success whatever, and returned to San Francisco, after remaining only a short time, during which they appear to have examined many of the hills and water-courses in the vicinity of the port. The only persons left behind were a party of seven men, professing to be British subjects, whom I found living in a small rocky island close to the "Thetis" anchorage. They had been landed in the beginning of May from the schooner "Susan Sturges," which vessel they expected daily to return to take them away again. They were preparing a boat, in which they intended to return to San Francisco, should the schooner not arrive shortly. This party were also working a vein of quartz, not far from that of the Hudson's Bay Company, but, according to their own account, had not found sufficient gold to make it worth their while to continue their operations, and were anxiously looking out for an opportunity to leave the island.

I have purchased for Her Majesty's Government such specimens as I could procure from Dr. Kennedy of the gold and gold ore found on Queen Charlotte's Island. Those of pure metal were purchased by him from the Indians. The specimens of quartz, all containing more or less gold, were taken from the vein which the company are now working in Port Mitchell.

The country round Port Mitchell is a series of rugged and precipitous rocky mountains, in some parts perpendicular for 100 feet or more, and thickly wooded, wherever it is possible for a tree to take root.

The woods, particularly where exposed to the north-west winds, are much blighted in many places. It is impossible anywhere to penetrate more than a few yards into the country without extreme labour, the ground being a mere mass of rocks, and fallen and decayed trees of great size, everywhere covered very thickly with moss. We found good water abundant in many accessible streams; but I think it probable that later in the season, when the snow is all melted on the hills, that it would be more scarce, as even during our short stay we found the streams considerably diminished, and few were sufficiently large to warrant the supposition that they would continue to flow during the heat of the summer months. We found the climate damp, and very changeable, the thermometer during the five days of our stay ranging from 56 to 80 in the shade.

Lieutenant Moresby, after a fatiguing walk, succeeded in reaching a fresh-water lake of some extent, about a mile and a half from the head of the harbour, and supposed to be about 400 feet above the level of the sea; and Lieutenant Peel reached the summit of one of the highest peaks, when he and his party walked for some distance over snow of considerable depth. Mr. Peel describes having seen from thence a large inlet or harbour to the southward. From the information I received, there would appear to be many good harbours in Queen Charlotte's Island. Not far to the northward of Port Mitchell is a passage which completely intersects the island, and which was navigated by the Hudson's Bay Company's steamer "Beaver" from the eastward to within a few miles of its western entrance, where she was stopped by dangerous rapids. The eastern coast of Queen Charlotte's Island is said to be much more level, and the neighbouring waters not so deep. It is said that antimony, lead, and iron are plentiful in that part.

The navigation of that part of the island which I visited appears to be very free from hidden dangers, but is difficult and dangerous for sailing vessels of any size, in consequence of the great depth of water everywhere, there being no anchorage, except in a very few places, too close to the rocks for a large ship, and the mountains are so high and abrupt, that the winds are unsteady and partial.

Mr. George Moore, the master of the "Thetis," has, by my directions, made a plan of Port Mitchell, and the channel leading to it, a tracing of which I enclose herewith.

The Indians upon Queen Charlotte's Island appear to be very numerous, and a finer and fairer race of men than those on Vancouver's Island. From our first arrival, we were daily surrounded by numbers of large canoes full of men, women, and children. All the tribes within reach came to see what they called the mountain ship, and we had at one time upwards of 100 canoes round the ship; but the Indians invariably behaved in the most friendly manner towards us, and, beyond the noise they made, caused us no annoyance

whatever. They have almost all some portion of European dress, and many understand some words of English. They are considered to be generally well-disposed towards their white visitors; and I was informed by the officers of the Hudson's Bay Company that they rarely had any trouble with them.

The furs procured from Queen Charlotte's Island by the Hudson's Bay Company are sea and land otter, bear, and martin.

Sub-Enclosure to Enclosure in No. 16.

LIST of VESSELS which have visited *Fort Mitchell, Queen Charlotte's Island.*

NAME OF VESSEL.	Under what Colours.	Date of Arrival.	Where From.	Date of Departure.
Schooner "Susan Sturges" -	American -	20 April 1852	San Francisco -	11 May 1852
Brig "Tepic" - - -	English -	21 April „	- ditto - -	15 May „
Brig "Palerma" - - -	American -	20 April „	- ditto - -	15 May „
Schooner "Mexican" - -	American -	28 April „	- ditto - -	8 May „
Brigantine "Eagle" - -	American -	2 May „	Columbia River -	7 June „
Schooner "Cecil" - -	American -	18 May „	San Francisco -	26 May „

— No. 17. —

No. 17.
Governor Douglas to Sir J. S. Pakington, 27 August 1852.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor *Douglas* to Sir *John S. Pakington*; dated Victoria, Vancouver's Island, 27 August 1852.

(Received, 11 November 1852.)

"HER MAJESTY'S ship 'Thetis' arrived at Esquimalt on the 22d instant, direct from Queen Charlotte's Island, and I believe Captain Kupar has orders from the Commander-in-chief to remain on this coast till the month of January next, chiefly with the view of guarding the Ports of Queen Charlotte's Island. The gold diggings in that quarter have not been productive this season, which has not, however, altered the general opinion entertained as to its wealth in the precious metals, the adventurers ascribing their late want of success simply to the circumstance of the true beds not having been discovered.

Fine specimens of lead and copper ore have also been procured on Queen Charlotte's Island, which, in a commercial view, gives it an additional value."

— No. 18. —

No. 18.
Sir J. S. Pakington, Bart., M.P. 27 Sept. 1852.

(No. 5.)

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH, &c., from Sir *John S. Pakington*, Bart., M.P., to Governor *Douglas*; dated Downing-street, 27 September 1852.

"Sir,

"I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 29th January* last, reporting generally upon the state of affairs in Queen Charlotte's Island, consequent upon the discovery of gold in that quarter of the British dominions.

* Page 2.

* * * * * * *

I have to inform you, that Her Majesty's Government, having taken into their serious consideration the measures which the discovery of gold in Queen Charlotte's

Charlotte's Island seems to require for the protection of British rights and the preservation of order, have determined on furnishing you with a commission, which is herewith sent, as Lieutenant-Governor of that settlement. You will distinctly understand that Her Majesty's Government have no intention to sanction, by this instrument, the impression that they may have any design of colonizing the country, or placing any establishment on it. The commission is issued solely to meet the circumstances of the times: it conveys to you no power to make laws, or constitute a regular government; but it gives the party bearing it a position of authority as representing Her Majesty's Government in the district, which is both important and valuable.

It will be satisfactory to you to learn that Her Majesty's Government have directed the Commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's naval forces on the west coast of America to take immediate steps for the protection of British interests against the depredations of Indians, or the unwarranted intrusion of foreigners, on the territory of the Queen; and I trust it may be further in the power of the Admiral to comply with your application for a steam-vessel. I transmit herewith, for your information and guidance, the copy of a letter and its enclosures from Lord Stanley, one of the Under Secretaries of State for Foreign Affairs, from which you will perceive that the Earl of Malmesbury has addressed a communication to Her Majesty's Minister at Washington, which, it is hoped, will have the effect of inducing the Government of the United States to exert themselves to prevent aggression by American citizens on English rights. It will, of course, devolve on you to punish according to law, or forcibly to expel from Queen Charlotte's Island, any foreigners who may infringe British regulations, or violate British territory. 2 June 1852.

The property, both in land and mines, in Queen Charlotte's Island being unquestionably the Crown's, the Crown can delegate to you the power of granting land and issuing licenses for procuring gold. But it is not the intention of Her Majesty's Government that any such grants, conveying a permanent interest in the land, should be made for the present: although you may permit parties to occupy defined portions of the soil, if you find it advisable, it must be on the understanding, that no title is thereby acquired until you have reported to me on the state of things in the island, and received further instructions; but with respect to the issuing of licenses, your experience may, perhaps, not be so extensive. I therefore send you copies of two papers which have been lately presented by command of Her Majesty to Parliament, relating to the recent discovery of gold in Australia, from which you will derive very valuable information as to the course of procedure adopted by the respective Governors in that country for granting licenses to persons to prosecute the search for gold. You will find the principal information on this subject at pages 70 and 71 of the Parliamentary Paper of February, and at pages 20, 21, 54 and 55, in that of June, and will frame such regulations as you may deem practicable and advisable for granting licenses for collecting gold upon the principle of those which you will find, from the correspondence, have been granted to the Australian Colonies. You will, therefore, understand that your power extends to granting licenses on such terms and for such period as you may think proper to persons intending to search for gold on the island; and that in cases of any violation of the right which such licenses give, or any unauthorised search taking place, you are to claim the support of Her Majesty's officers who may be within reach to enforce your authority. At the same time, these powers are entrusted to you subject to your own discretion as to the means of employing them; and if you find that any fitter means of maintaining the Crown's authority over the tribes presents itself, you can provisionally adopt it, subject to the approval of Her Majesty's Government. You will take care to transmit to me copies of the regulations which you shall frame, and report to me from time to time the progress of events arising out of this fresh discovery of gold in the Queen's dominions; and you will keep the sums received on account of licenses which you may issue separate and distinct from any other revenue that may be received in the colony. February 1852. June 1852.

You have suggested in your despatch of the 29th January, that it would be highly desirable to exclude the vessels of foreign powers from the trade which is opening itself in Queen Charlotte's Island, so as to confine it to national vessels alone. On this proposal I have merely to inform you that Her Majesty's

Government would not be justified, under the existing state of the law, in resorting to any measure of this description.

In conclusion, I have to state that Her Majesty's Government would have been glad to have furnished the officer in command of the vessel or vessels which Admiral Moresby may have in his power to detach to Queen Charlotte's Island with a commission of the peace; but the difficulty is, to know to whom such a commission should be granted, as it is impossible to foresee in this country what officer Admiral Moresby may find it convenient to employ upon the service. It is clear, however, that Queen Charlotte's Island being out of your commission, you do not possess the power of granting commissions of the peace in that settlement, though the Crown can do so, under the authority of the Imperial Act 1 & 2 Geo. 4, c. 16, s. 10, notwithstanding the concurrent power which is vested in the Governor-General of British North America. In consequence of the difficulty to which I have above adverted, it is not, at all events at present, in my power to give you positive instructions or information as to the issuing of a commission of the peace in Queen Charlotte's Island.

But any report from yourself, specifying persons to whom you think such a commission should be given (with a full description of their names, so as to enable the commission to be properly drawn up) will receive immediate attention.

I have, &c.
(signed) *John S. Pakington.*

Encl. in No. 18.

Enclosure in No. 18.

Sir, Foreign Office, 2 June 1852.

I HAVE laid before the Earl of Malmesbury your letter of the 26th ultimo., inquiring whether any and what instructions should be given to the Governor of Vancouver's Island, or to Rear-Admiral Moresby, in regard to foreign vessels trading to Queen Charlotte's Island, or to parties of foreigners whom such vessels may convey thither, for the purpose of carrying on mining or other operations; and I am directed by his Lordship to transmit to you a copy of a letter which he addressed to the Admiralty on the 8th ultimo, desiring that Admiral Moresby should be instructed to protect British property and British territory from violation by foreigners.

To Admiralty. 8 May 1852.

I also transmit to you a copy of a despatch which Lord Malmesbury has written to Her Majesty's Minister at Washington upon this subject, and which despatch his Lordship hopes will have the desired effect of inducing the United States Government to exert themselves to prevent aggression by American citizens on English rights; and I am to request that you will inform Secretary Sir John Pakington that, in his Lordship's opinion, the Governor of Vancouver's Island, or the officer whose jurisdiction extends over Queen Charlotte's Island, should be instructed in conformity with the tenor of the papers above mentioned, and should make such regulations regarding the trade and mining operations as may be right and proper, and may prevent such trade and mining from being improperly usurped by foreigners; and that both the Governor and Admiral should be instructed to punish according to law, or forcibly to expel from the island, any foreigners who may infringe British regulations, or violate British territory.

To Mr. Crampton. No. 46. 8 May 1852.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Stanley.*

Sub-Enclosure 1, to Enclosure in No. 18.

My Lords, Foreign Office, 8 May 1852.

I TRANSMIT to your Lordships herewith copies of a letter and its enclosures from the Hudson's Bay Company, respecting the proceedings of certain American adventurers at Queen Charlotte's Islnud, and I have to signify to your Lordships Her Majesty's commands, that the Commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's naval forces on the west coast of America be instructed to take immediate steps to protect British property and British territory from violation by foreigners.

I have, &c.
The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty. (signed) *Malmesbury.*

Sub-Enclosure 2, to Enclosure in No. 18.

(No. 46.)

Sir, Foreign Office, 8 May 1852.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copies of a letter and its enclosures from the Hudson's Bay Company respecting the proceedings of certain American adventurers at Queen Charlotte's Island, and I have to instruct you to call the serious and immediate attention of the Government of the United States to those proceedings, which are calculated to endanger the friendly relations between the two Governments, but which Her Majesty's Government feel assured have been undertaken without the knowledge or consent of the Supreme Government.

You will add, that Her Majesty's Government have, of course, given instructions to the Commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's Naval forces on the west coast of America to protect British property and British territory from violation, and that any foreigners who may suffer from such measures of protection must take upon themselves the consequences of their aggressive and improper acts.

I am, &c.

T. F. Crampton, Esq. (signed) *Malmesbury.*
&c. &c. &c.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S ISLAND.

COPIES or EXTRACTS of CORRESPONDENCE relative to the DISCOVERY of GOLD at *Queen Charlotte's Island.*

(*Mr. Peel.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
19 *July* 1853.

Under 3 oz.